

DOCKET NO.: PLBA-0004
Application No.: 10/088,323
Office Action Dated: November 30, 2004

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is requested. After entry of this amendment, claims 181-224 (a total of forty-four claims) are pending in the application. Claim 194 is amended.

In the final office action dated November 30, 2004, the examiner rejects claim 194 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. § 112

The examiner rejects claim 194 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 due to a lack of proper antecedent basis for the following claim features: “the portion of the conveyor along one longitudinal edge;” and “the portion of the conveyor along the opposing longitudinal edge.”

Applicant has amended independent claim 194 so that the above-referenced claim features include proper antecedent basis. Applicant asserts that the above amendment places the application in condition for allowance, thereby providing that the above amendment be entered after-final.

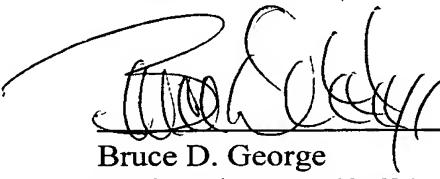
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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that pending claims 181-224 (a total of forty-four claims) are allowable and requests that examiner issue an early notice of allowance. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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